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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/722,176	11/24/2003	Tariq M. Rana	UMY-059	3047
959	7590	08/23/2005	EXAMINER	
LAHIVE & COCKFIELD, LLP. 28 STATE STREET BOSTON, MA 02109			CHONG, KIMBERLY	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		1635		

DATE MAILED: 08/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/722,176	RANA, TARIQ M.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Kimberly Chong	1635

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 July 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-13, 15 and 16 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 14 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 24 November 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election without traverse of Group IX, claim 14, in the reply filed on 07/18/2005 is acknowledged.

Status of the Application

Claims 1-16 are pending in the instant application. Claim 1 is currently under examination and claims 1-13 and 15-16 have been withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

It must be noted that the phrase "siRNA delivery mixture" is not defined in the specification. Therefore, for purposes of prior art, a siRNA delivery mixture can be interpreted to mean a mixture comprising a dendrimer that is capable of delivering a siRNA, which is a nucleic acid, into cells.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bielinska et al. (Nucleic Acids Research, 1996, Vol. 24, No. 11: 2176-2182).

Claim 14 is drawn to a siRNA delivery mixture comprising a dendrimer.

Bielinska et al. teach a delivery mixture comprising a dendrimer capable of delivering a nucleic acid into cells (see page 2177, column 2 second paragraph).

Thus, Bielinska et al. anticipates claim 14 of the instant application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoo et al. (Pharm Research 1999, Vol. 16: 1799-1804), in view of Hammond et al. (Nature 2001, Vol. 2: 110-119).

Claim 14 is drawn to a siRNA delivery mixture comprising a dendrimer.

Yoo et al. teach a delivery mixture, comprising an antisense molecule and a dendrimer, capable of delivering an antisense molecule into cells (see bottom page 1799 to top page 1800). Yoo et al. do not teach a delivery mixture comprising a siRNA.

Hammond et al. teach two molecules used for silencing specific genes: antisense and dsRNA. Hammond et al. teach that although antisense methods are straightforward techniques for probing gene function, the methods have suffered from "...questionable specificity and incomplete efficacy." (see page 110, column 1).

Hammond et al. further teach ... "dsRNAs have been shown to inhibit gene expression in a sequence-specific manner" and further "RNAi is a potent method, requiring only a few molecules of dsRNA per cell to silence expression."

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the delivery mixture comprising a dendrimer for delivering a dsRNA instead of an antisense molecule.

One would have been motivated to use the delivery mixture comprising a dendrimer for delivering a dsRNA instead of an antisense because Yoo et al. teach an antisense/dendrimer complex provides many advantages such as extended circulation life time, improved delivery to targeted tissues or cells and increased concentration at the target site (see last paragraph page 1803). Further, Hammond et al. teach using dsRNA to inhibit gene expression is more sequence specific than using antisense methodologies and RNAi using dsRNA is a more potent method requiring only a few molecules of dsRNA per cell.

Finally, one would have a reasonable expectation of success because Yoo et al. teach antisense molecules can be delivery to cells using a delivery mixture comprising a dendrimer and Hammond et al. teach that of the two molecules used to administer to cells for silencing gene function, dsRNA is more potent and sequence specific than antisense

Thus in the absence of evidence to the contrary, the invention as a whole would have been *prima facie* obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kimberly Chong whose telephone number is 571-272-3111. The examiner can normally be reached Monday thru Friday between 7-4 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Wang can be reached at 571-272-0811. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

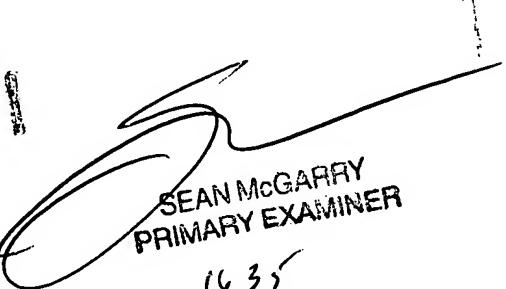
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For all other customer support, please call the USPTO Call Center (UCC) at 800-786-9199.

Kimberly Chong
Examiner
Art Unit 1635



SEAN McGARRY
PRIMARY EXAMINER
(635)